

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2A-2C. These sheets replace the originally filed Figs. 1 and 2A-2C. In attached Figs. 1 and 2A-2C, the legend “Prior Art” has been added. No new matter is involved.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated March 29, 2006, Figures 1 and 2A-2C were objected to as being informal because they should include “a legend such as –Prior Art--.” Replacement sheets containing amended Figs. 1 and 2A-2C are attached to this paper. The legend “Prior Art” has been added to each of Figs. 1 and 2A-2C. No new matter is involved.

Further in the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2001-171570 A, and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of the ‘570 document.

Amended claim 1 recites in pertinent part:

tape holding member structure defining at least a portion of a tape guiding space and an entrance into said tape guiding space, said entrance allowing the tape to be inserted into said tape guiding space in a direction generally transverse to a direction of movement of the tape through said tape guiding space, said entrance being open during the application of the tape to a bent portion and/or curved portion of the adherend


The ‘570 document discloses an adhesive tape applicator comprising first and second holding pieces, an elastic roller mounted to the first holding piece for applying an adhesive tape to a door sash frame and a grip coupled to the second holding piece via slide shafts. The second holding piece, the grip and the slide shafts move relative to the first holding piece. A tape supply guide is positioned opposite a pressing side of the elastic roller. A swingable plate is positioned adjacent to the tape supply guide. The ‘570 document does not disclose, teach or suggest tape holding member structure defining an entrance allowing tape to be inserted into a tape guiding space in a direction generally transverse to a direction of movement of the tape through the tape guiding space, wherein the entrance is open during the application of the tape to a bent portion and/or curved portion of the adherend. The swingable plate is biased to a close position during the tape application operation, see column 5, lines 5-15 and 32-37 of corresponding U.S. Patent No. 6,748,993. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-29 define patentable subject matter over the ‘570 document.

New claims 21-29 have been added. Support for these claims can be found, for example, in Figs. 3-5 and 6A-6D and paragraph 31 of corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0257892 A1. No new matter is involved.

For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 1-29 define patentably over the '570 document. Accordingly, it is submitted that the above referenced prior rejections should be withdrawn and this case allowed.

Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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